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ACTOR JACQUELINE NAMED ACCUSED IN EXTORTION CASE

The ED on Wednesday filed a chargesheet naming her an accused in the case involving conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar

'ACCEPTED GIFTS BOUGHT WITH ILLEGAL MONEY'

The Delhi Police arrested Chandrashekhar in August last year for allegedly extorting ₹215 crore from Aditi Singh and Shivender Singh, former promoters of Ranbaxy. The ED said Chandrashekhar, who had been dating Jacqueline Fernandez, had given her gifts worth ₹5.7 crore. She was aware that the gifts were bought with the proceeds of the crime, the ED alleged

CONMAN HELPED HER FAMILY TOO, SAYS ED

- In addition to the gifts, Chandrashekhar gave $1,72,913 to close family members of the actor through a hawala operator
- Jacqueline is the only person named in the latest chargesheet
- She has been questioned several times by the ED. In April, the agency provisionally attached her assets worth ₹7.27 crore

August 31

WHEN A SPECIAL COURT WILL TAKE UP THE CHARGESHEET FOR HEARING

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EWS FLATS

GOVT FLIP-FLOP ON ROHINGYA HOUSING IN DELHI OUTSKIRTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre on Wednesday did a flip-flop hours after a minister applauded a decision to provide government accommodation to Rohingya refugees in Delhi's outskirts. It said there was no direction to provide EWS (economically weaker section) flats in Bakkarwala to illegal migrants from Myanmar.

The day began with Union minister for housing and urban affairs Hardeep Singh Puri tweeting, "In a landmark decision all #Rohingya #Refugees will be shifted to EWS flats in Bakkarwala area of Delhi. They will be provided basic amenities, UNHCR IDs & round-the-clock @DelhiPolice protection."

Several individuals and social media users slammed the government 'support' to the Rohingya and sought similar relief to Hindu migrants from Pakistan as well. The VHP termed it shocking, with its working president Alok Kumar saying, "Rohingyas are not refugees but infiltrators. That had been the consistent stand of the Union of India including in its affidavit filed before the Supreme Court. The proposal to allocate accommodation to Rohingyas is deplorable." The Aam Aadmi Party, too, joined the attack, alleging the Centre had hatched a plot to permanently settle Rohingyas.

As the outrage grew, the Union home ministry issued a statement saying it has not instructed relocation of the Rohingyas. "The Government of Delhi proposed to shift the Rohingyas to a new location. MHA has directed the Government of Delhi to ensure that the Rohingya illegal foreigners will continue at the present location at Kanchan Kunj, Madanpur Khadar as MHA has already taken up the matter (their) of deportation," it said.

It complained that the Delhi Government had not declared the present location (Madanpur Khadar) of the refugees as a detention centre.

About 1,100 Rohingyas have been staying in tents in Madanpur Khadar on which the Delhi government reportedly spends about ₹7 lakh per month. Following a high-level meeting held in July, it was decided to allot EWS flats to Rohingyas. The Delhi Police were directed to provide security to the premises.

A Rohinya refugee settlement at Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi on Wednesday | EXPRESS

BSY in, Gadkari out of top party panel

Balancing act to soften ex-Karnataka CM ahead of state polls; Yogi surprise omission from parliamentary board

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

Nitin Gadkari

Shivraj Chouhan

IN a major shake-up in its parliamentary board and the Central Election Committee, the BJP on Wednesday dropped stalwarts Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and inducted BS Yediyurappa, Sarbanand Sonowal, Devendra Fadnavis and Bhupendra Yadav, among others.

While Fadnavis and Bhupendra Yadav were made members of the CEC, Yediyurappa and Sonowal got into the more important parliamentary board.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath failed to make it to the panel. He was expected to be elevated to the party's top decision-making body after the BJP returned to power under his leadership in the state. The parliamentary board is the BJP's apex organisational body, while the CEC is the top election committee which decides candidates for all polls.

Yediyurappa's inclusion was a balancing act, highlighting the party's efforts to send a message to the powerful Lingayat community ahead of Karnataka polls. When he was replaced by Basavaraj Bommai as chief minister in 2021, Yediyurappa did not take the decision well, and had announced his retirement from politics.

The party leadership chose Iqbal Singh Lalpura as the first Sikh representative in the parliamentary board. Lalpura, a BJP leader from Punjab, is a former cop and is at present the chairman of the National Commission for Minorities.

Gadkari is considered close to the RSS leadership. His axing came as a big surprise to BJP watchers. The removal of Gadkari and Chouhan shows their increasing differences with the top party leadership.

The other new parliamentary board members are K Laxman, Sudha Yadav and Satyanarayan Jatiya, three old party faithfuls but political lightweights. Sudha Yadav and Laxman are from the Other Backward Classes while former Union minister Jatia is from the Scheduled Castes. Sonowal is a tribal. Laxman is at present the president of the BJP's OBC Morcha.

The new entrants to the CEC include Rajasthan leader Om Mathur and BJP women wing chief Vanathi Srinivasan. Srinivasan replaces her predecessor Vijaya Rahatkar as the party's Mahila Morcha chief as its ex-officio member. Both Yediyurappa and Jatiya are over 75, well over the age bar announced by Modi for holding important posts in the party. Fadnavis' induction marks his growing stock in Maharashtra. It's seen as a reward for bringing down the Uddhav government.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai greets his predecessor and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Wednesday | EXPRESS

BSY: My elevation comes as a surprise, never wanted to retire

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

VETERAN BJP leader B S Yediyurappa said the party has given him a big responsibility which he had not expected.

Addressing a press conference after the party announced his elevation to the BJP Parliamentary Board and Central Election Committee, the former Karnataka chief minister said, "When I stepped down as CM, I decided to bring the BJP back to power with full majority. The party recognises the efforts of workers. I never wanted to retire from politics and public life. I will ensure that the party will come back to power with more than 140 seats. We will not allow any other party to come to power in Karnataka," he said. P4

Denied shelter, transwoman seeks nod for mercy killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madikeri

AFTER her endless struggle to find a shelter for herself, a transwoman in Madikeri has written to the district administration seeking permission to undergo euthanasia (mercy killing). Rihana Irfan from Kerala says her repeated pleas to authorities to provide her a house have fallen on deaf dears.

Rihana moved to Madikeri over a decade ago. She had to quit her degree course in a government college midway, as she was harassed by other students. "I was being harassed for being a transwoman and I chose to quit my studies. I joined a transgender community in Mysuru and later underwent surgery. I was shuttling between Mysuru and Bengaluru, but decided to move back to Madikeri," she says.

> I was being harassed for being a transwoman and I chose to quit my studies.
>
> Rihana Irfan, the aggrieved

"After a long search, I managed to find a house on rent, but neighbours pressured the landlord and got me evicted," she rues.

She then received help from a flood victim in Madikeri, who agreed to give her shelter in a house damaged in landslide. "The family was sanctioned a house under flood relief work and they asked me to stay at their old house. However, the house is now in a dilapidated condition," she says.

Rihana applied for a house under a government housing scheme, but to no avail. P5

EXPRESS READ

Lokayukta staring at staff shortage

BENGALURU: With the Karnataka Anti-Corruption Bureau getting abolished and its cases being transferred to the Lokayukta, there is a dire need to address the shortage of staff in the Lokayukta across the state. There was a 31% shortage of officers and staff, as on July 31, 2022. P4

Shivamogga limping back to normal

SHIVAMOGGA: ADGP Alok Kumar said that life in Shivamogga city was returning to normal, even as all business establishments remained closed in the evening on Wednesday. The ADGP said normal life will return on Thursday, in the city wracked by communal violence.

Pro-Pak slogans on Clubhouse: Case booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU police have taken up a suo motu case after some youngsters raised pro-Pakistan slogans during a discussion on the social media app, Clubhouse. The incident allegedly took place on the night of August 14 and one of the participants in the discussion had taken screenshots of the pro-Pakistan comments made by a user and few others with the Pakistan national flag as their display photo. The same was shared on social media. After the discussion, a few of them allegedly posted messages daring the authorities to take action against them.

Taking the issue seriously, the police have registered a suo motu case in Sampigehalli Police Station under IPC section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony). City Police Commissioner C H Pratap Reddy said the matter is under investigation and the police will seek information from Clubhouse about the profiles. A senior police officer said that prima facie, those involved in this had no connection with Pakistan and are local residents.

3 CISF MEN DISMISSED

OVER BREACH AT NSA'S RESIDENCE

Three CISF commandos have been dismissed and two officers of its VIP security unit shunted, following an inquiry into a security breach at the residence of NSA **Ajit Doval** in Delhi earlier this year, officials said. P9

K'taka prisoners to manage fuel stations soon

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka state prisons department is planning to start fuel stations to be run and managed by prisoners. These stations will be started at selective places which are close to prisons and can be easily monitored by the department staff.

The state has nearly 100 prisons which include central, district, open and taluk-level jails where more than 15,000 inmates are housed.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Alok Mohan, Director General of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services, said the project is part of the department's reform and rehabilitation initiatives. "We are in talks with the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum (BP). When prisoners come out of jails after serving their term, they can find employment at petrol bunks or can even start bunks on their own," he said

Mohan said similar projects have been launched in some states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. "We are working on the feasibility," he said.

When asked about the places that will be selected, he said, "We are identifying suitable plots that are closer to prisons. It will be done wherever possible." Mohan said it's a commerical venture and the inmates will be trained before being assigned jobs.

Sources from the prisons department said that a single petrol bunk can give opportunities to at least 45 prisoners who can work in three shifts with 15 members working in each shift. Prisoners with good conduct will be selected. Plans are also afoot to start carwash and other services next to the fuel stations.

CONTINUED ON: P5

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>
> Alok Mohan, DGP, Prisons and Correctional Services

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